

E-002924

Comprehensive Monitoring Assessment and Research Program (CMARP)



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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Date: April 24, 1998

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Handled for

Subject: Proposal for CMARP -- Comprehensive Monitoring Assessment and Research Program

Summary

An interagency team has completed a proposal to design a comprehensive monitoring, assessment, and research program (CMARP) for CALFED during the next nine months. This proposal has been reviewed by stakeholders, agency personnel, and CALFED staff. In addition to funding for the design of the CMARP program, funding is also being requested to implement the ecosystem research component of the program. The research component has also been reviewed and is supported by the Category III technical panel and Ecosystem Roundtable. CALFED Policy Group is being asked to review and approve the proposed CMARP process, schedule and budget, including the funding for research implementation.

Detailed Discussion

CMARP Proposal. On December 19, 1997, the Policy Group requested a group from USGS, SFEI, and IEP to work together to develop a proposal for designing a comprehensive monitoring, assessment, and research program (CMARP). The Policy Group requested the group to provide the proposal in three months and authorized an allocation of \$25,000 to cover the costs. A team convened thereafter (including personnel from CALFED, DWR, SFEI, EPA, and USGS), prepared a draft proposal, and circulated it among numerous stakeholders and agency and CALFED personnel. The team also presented the proposal to the CALFED Indicators group, the ERPP strategic planning team, the Ecosystem Roundtable, the Ecosystem Restoration Work Group, and the CALFED Management Team.

The program will be designed to encompass the needs of the CALFED common programs and associated programs of CALFED agencies (e.g., IEP monitoring activities, CALFED Operations Group real-time monitoring, the Vernalis Adaptive Management Program, Interior's Comprehensive Assessment and Monitoring Program, and SFEI's Regional Monitoring Program). A steering committee composed of agency personnel and stakeholders (tentative list attached) will set up a process and use information from a variety of sources (attached figure) to undertake the following tasks.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Tasks:

- clarify goals and objectives of the CALFED common programs;
- develop a conceptual framework for key impediments to program implementation;
- design a monitoring program, a data management process, a data assessment and reporting process, and a Category III monitoring process;
- design a research program focused on questions that impede implementation of CALFED actions; and
- develop recommendations for an organizational structure needed to implement CMARP.

In addition to an interim report needed for the EIS/R and a final report to be completed by the end of the nine-month design period, each task will produce a number of products.

Products:

- several white papers describing conceptual models developed during workshops, and a report summarizing the conceptual framework of the common programs;
- a metadata system, a data management infrastructure, a data assessment process, and a Category III monitoring process; and
- a list of science questions associated with common program actions, a focused RFP process to address the questions, and an objective peer review process for proposals.

Budget:

Staff salaries compose most of the costs for these activities described above. A breakdown of the tasks and budget is shown in the attached table. The total cost for the nine-month effort will be \$1.8 million.

The Ecosystem Roundtable has approved the \$1.8 million for the proposal but expressed several concerns including the need to involve stakeholders in the development of the program, incorporating specific comments already submitted to CMARP, and the need to integrate CMARP with the ERPP strategic plan. These concerns have or will be addressed in the design and development of the program. Funding for the design of CMARP will be provided from both federal Bay Delta Act funds (\$1 million previously approved by Policy Group in February 1998) and state Proposition 204 funds (\$800,000 of additional funds from state reserve, not yet approved by Policy Group).

Research Implementation. Under the Category III program, Policy Group has indicated that funding for a research program is of lower priority than funding for implementation projects. As a result the majority for near-term ecosystem restoration funding is dedicated to implementation. However, the Category III Technical Panel which includes IEP representatives from state and federal agencies, and the Ecosystem Roundtable has

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recommended providing an additional \$1 million for a research program linked with CMARP. Funding for the research program would be allocated in an open competitive program incorporating a scientific peer review process and coordinated with CMARP.

The \$1 million in funding for the research component would be from the state Proposition 204 reserve account.

Action Required

CALFED Management Team has recommended approval of the CMARP proposal and the additional \$1 million for research. CALFED Policy Group is being asked to comment and approve the proposed CMARP proposal/budget and additional \$1 million for research implementation. Final approval for the additional state funding rests with the Secretary of Resources.

Attachments